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# Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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## **STATE'S HOG & PIG INVENTORY DROPS 100,000 HEAD**

**HARRISBURG ---** There were 1,000,000 hogs and pigs on **Pennsylvania** farms on March 1, 2000, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). This estimated inventory was 100,000 head below the previous year's inventory.

Market hog inventory, at 880,000 head, dropped 100,000 head; while breeding stock inventory, at 120,000 head, remained the same as in 1999. The December 1999-February 2000 pig crop totaled 409,000 head, no different from the same period a year earlier. There were 47,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, unchanged from the previous year. The average litter rate was 8.70 pigs per litter, the same per litter from the previous year.

**Pennsylvania** hog farmers intend to have 47,000 sows farrow during the March-May 2000 period, the same as actual farrowings a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the June-August quarter are projected at 47,000 sows, 7 percent above the actual farrowings for the same period last year.

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**U.S.** inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2000, was 58.1 million head. This was 3 percent below March 1999, and 2 percent below December 1, 1999. Breeding inventory, at 6.22 million head, was down 5 percent from March 1, 1999, and down slightly from December 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 51.9 million head, was 3 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 1999-February 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 24.8 million head, was 2 percent less than 1999, and 3 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.79 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period, compared to 8.73 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S.** hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the March-May 2000 quarter, 4 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 7 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for June-August 2000, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period last year and 7 percent below 1998. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.